CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of automatically creating a plurality of individually customized documents, each for a corresponding one of a plurality of individuals, said method comprising the steps of:

creating a plurality of document components;

creating a plurality of rules governing document assembly;

providing document specific data and text, said provided data and text being further specific to individuals intended to receive customized copies of documents being published; and

providing a document request, said document request initiating assembly of a document, said document being assembled responsive to said created rules and provided data and text.

2. A method as in claim 1 wherein the rules comprise:

document rules directing component selection and text selection;

condition rules directing selection of logic conditions to be evaluated; and

action rules directing document editing actions to be taken responsive to logical evaluation of selected document rules and condition rules.

3. A method as in claim 2 wherein a plurality of said document rules are assembled into a logic function that is spread across multiple ones of said plurality of condition rules.

4. A method as in claim 3 wherein said plurality of document rules include operators from condition rules directing collection of said multiple rules to form said logic functions.

5.   A method as in claim 4 wherein ones of said document rules select other subsequent document rules, condition rules and variable text rules.

6.   A method as in claim 5 wherein ones of said document rules conditionally select said subsequent document rules, condition rules and variable text rules.

7.   A method as in claim 6 wherein said document rules further contain multiple business layers, each of said business layers providing a client specific organization, content and business rules.

8.   A method as in claim 7 wherein unused said business layers are marked null.

9.   A method as in claim 7 wherein said business layers provide document component authorization security control, document reporting control and control for searching and indexing rules blocks.

10.   A method as in claim 9 wherein document component authorization security control designates user read and write access to document components.

11.   A method as in claim 1 wherein a plurality of said document rules are always true, always true rules being unconditional rules.

12.   A method as in claim 1 wherein each of said condition rules is linked to a document rule.

13.   A method as in claim 12 wherein each of said condition rules contain pointers indicating any next condition and any subcondition.

14.   A method as in claim 13 wherein blocks of said condition rules are selected for a corresponding document rule, said blocks providing a logic function to be evaluated for said corresponding document rule.

1 15. A method as in claim 1 wherein each of said action rules corresponds to one
2 of said document rules.

1 16. A method as in claim 15 wherein each of said action rules contains a specific
2 action on a component with respect to said document being created.

1 17. A method as in claim 15 wherein the plurality of said action rules are
2 grouped into groups, each group of action rules being identified for one of said
3 document rules.

1 18. A method as in claim 16 wherein document components are inserted, deleted
2 or replaced as directed by a particular action rule.

1 19. A data structure for automatically assembling a plurality of individually
2 customized documents, each assembled document for a corresponding one of a
3 plurality of individuals, said data structure comprising:
4   a plurality of selectable document components;
5   document rules directing document component selection and text selection;
6   condition rules each linked to one of said document rules and directing
7 selection of logic conditions to be evaluated;
8   action rules each linked to one of said document rules and directing
9 document editing actions to be taken responsive to logical evaluation of selected
10 document rules and condition rules; and
11   collected data and text, document specific and specific to individuals
12 intended to receive customized copies of documents being published, whereby in
13 response to a document request initiating assembly of a document, said document is
14 assembled responsive to said created rules and collected data and text.

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20. A data structure as in claim 19 wherein selecting a block of said document rules selects a logic function that is spread across multiple ones of said plurality of condition rules.

21. A data structure as in claim 20 wherein ones of said document rules are linked to select other subsequent document rules, condition rules and variable text rules.

22. A data structure as in claim 21 wherein ones of said document rules are linked to conditionally select said subsequent document rules, condition rules and variable text rules.

23. A data structure as in claim 22 wherein said document rules further contain multiple business layers, each of said business layers providing client specific organization, content and business rules, unused said business layers being marked null.

24. A data structure as in claim 23 wherein said business layers contain document component authorization security control, document reporting control and control for searching and indexing rules blocks.

25. A data structure as in claim 24 wherein document component authorization security control authorizes read and write access for selected document components.

26. A data structure as in claim 22 wherein a plurality of said document rules are always true, always true rules being unconditional rules.

27. A data structure as in claim 19 wherein ones of said condition rules point to a next condition and a subcondition.

1   28.   A data structure as in claim 27 wherein each of said action rules contains a

2   specific action on a component with respect to a document being created.

1   29.   A data structure as in claim 28 wherein said action rules selectively cause

2   linked document components to be inserted, deleted or replaced in a document being

3   created.